

What's New in the MPDC

FEBRUARY 12, 2001

MPDC GOES HIGH-TECH IN COMBATING UNDERAGE DRINKING

In a high-tech strategy to crack down on minors who use false identifications to buy alcohol, the MPDC this month is rolling out a new identification and verification system. Called ID-Check, the small, portable devices read data encoded in magnetic stripes and barcodes on driver's licenses, military IDs and other forms of identification. Developed by Intelli-Check, Inc., in cooperation with U.S. and Canadian motor vehicle administrations, the system allows police and businesses to verify – on the spot and within seconds – the authenticity of a driver's license or other personal identification card. Undercover police officers posing as “bouncers” have started using ID-Check to identify persons using false identification in trying to enter DC bars and taverns. The MPDC is the first police department in the nation to implement the system, as part of its Stopping Underage Drinking program. For more information, go to:

A law enacted last year by the DC Council gives the MPDC a new weapon to target underage drinking and reduce alcohol-related problems among youth. The *Underage Drinking Emergency Act of 2000* (Law 13-165) establishes civil penalties for individuals who use a false ID to enter a Class C or D liquor establishment.

<http://www.mpd.org/> (click on News)

NATIONAL CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK: FEBRUARY 11-17, 2001

As part of its Project Safe Child, DC has established a permanent child safety seat fitting station, as well as numerous loaner sites for car seats. Find out more at:
<http://www.mpd.org/>
(click on Services and Programs)

Although use of passenger restraints for children is increasing for all age groups, traffic crashes continue to be the leading cause of death for young people ages 5 through 15. And although the District (and the 50 states) have statutes requiring proper restraints for younger children and seat belt use by older children, nearly one-third of children under age 5 are still not properly restrained. To remind DC residents of the importance of properly restraining child passengers – and the legal requirements they face – the MPDC will join with DPW's Division of Transportation, George Washington

University Hospital and the DC Safe Kids Coalition in observing National Child Passenger Safety Week. Beginning Saturday, February 10, checkpoints will be held in locations throughout the District during the next week. In addition to citing drivers who fail to restrain child passengers, police and other safety officials will be checking to ensure that child safety seats are properly installed and that parents who need safety seats are provided with them. Learn more about child passenger safety laws and resources in DC at:

<http://www.mpd.org/> (click on Safety Tips)

MPDC SEEKS COMMUNITY'S HELP IN GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY HOMICIDE

MPD and FBI investigators continue to search for clues in the February 3 homicide of Benjamin Varner, a freshman at Gallaudet University in Northeast. His murder was the second on the campus this academic year, with both occurring in the Cogswell Hall dormitory. Chief Ramsey joined university and student leaders in asking anyone with information about either crime to contact police (a special TTY hotline – 202-727-1240 – and e-mail address – GallyCase@hotmail.com – have been established). Police also released a photo of a jacket found in a campus dumpster that may be connected to the Varner case, and asked anyone with information about the jacket to come forward. Read more about both homicides at:

While DC's colleges and universities are among the city's safest communities, no campus is immune from crime. For a detailed list of campus safety tips and resources, click on:

*<http://www.mpdc.org/>
(click on Safety Tips)*

<http://www.mpdc.org/> (click on News)

LOOK FOR THE MPDC AT THE NBC4 HEALTH & FITNESS EXPO

On the weekend of February 17-18, the Washington Convention Center will be transformed into part health club, part clinic, part health kitchen – all part of the 8th Annual NBC4 Health & Fitness Expo. The MPDC's Youth and Preventive Services will be on hand to conduct child fingerprinting and provide other child safety and crime prevention information. McGruff the Crime Dog is expected to make an appearance as well. For complete information about the Health & Fitness Expo, visit the NBC4 Web site at:

If you can't make the Health & Fitness Expo, but would like printed materials or a presentation on child safety – or on any other crime prevention topic – contact the MPDC Community Outreach Section at 202-727-2662 or e-mail: RaiHowell@excite.com. For a list of safety tips on-line, click on:
*<http://www.mpdc.org/>
(click on Safety Tips)*

<http://www.nbc4.com>

MAKE THE RIGHT CALL: 3-1-1 FOR POLICE NON-EMERGENCIES

Learn more about the MPDC's toll-free telephone number for reporting police non-emergencies at:
<http://www.mpdc.org/> (click on Telephone Directory)

And you or your group can get 3-1-1 materials — brochures, flyers, refrigerator magnets and stickers — by calling 202-727-9346 or e-mailing: kmorison_mpdc@excite.com.

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kmorison_mpdc@excite.com.

Would you like to have this information emailed to you? Just go to our web site and register with crimereports.com.

METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT WEB PAGE
[HTTP://WWW.MPDC.ORG](http://www.mpdc.org)